IMT Nuremberg Archives

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International Court of Justice

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

12 June, 1946.

COMMISSIONER:

Captain Tubridy.

THE SS.

(THE COMMISSION CONVENED AT 1000 HOURS.)

EBERHARD VON THADDEN, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: You are reminded that you are still under oath.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

CROSS EXAMINATION RESUMED.

BY COLONEL JONES:

Q Yesterday, you stated that you had no knowledge of the extermination of the Jews. I now want to ask you if you had knowledge of other matters. You knew, did you not, of the boycott against the Jews in April of 1933?

A Yes.

Q You knew, did you not, of the demonstration of November, 1938?

A Yes, I found out afterwards with sorrow.

Q You knew either the night it occured, or the day afterwards I suppose?

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A The next day when I saw the results.

Q Who organized the demonstrations, who was responsible for them?

A I cannot say that. I was an SS man and I was in no way connected with them. The first time I knew of it was when I saw the results the next day.

Q Please understand me, I was not suggesting that you were, but I wanted to know if you knew who was responsible.

A I only can say that we, of the foreign ministry, did not approve of it and saw it with sorrow. I do not know now and at that time was not able to find out who was the guilty person or the organization that gave the order.

Q Who were the people chiefly prominent in the demonstration?

A I cannot say since I was not a witness to any of these demonstrations.

Q I suppose after they occured, there was considerable talk among the people in Germany about the demonstrations.

A Yes since quite a bit of valuable property was destroyed and our minister did not like the propaganda that resulted.

Q Whom, or what organizations, was generally blamed?

A That is very hard to answer. I knew that SA members and members of the political leaders participated.

Q How do you know that SA men participated.

A That is what I heard from what was said in the prosecution.

Q Was it generally known that the SA had participated in the demonstration?

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A I cannot say that because I was in Berlin. From what I heard later on, I found out there was quite different views depending on the locality.

Q I am asking you what the general opinion was about it at the time. Was it the general opinion at the time that the SA had largely contributed toward the demonstrations of November, 1938?

A I am very sorry that I cannot answer the question. I am not in a position to know what took place and what groups participated.

DR. PELKMAN: May I object to the previous question. The witness stated previously that he had no personal information and if he is supposed to give the opinion of the general public, I don't think that would be considered as direct evidence.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: I take it that the witness was supposed to have general knowledge of the situation.

DR. PELKMAN: I want to state that that is not the truth. This man was to be questioned about the Jew question since 1943 when he actively started to work on the Jewish question.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: This line of questioning is perfectly proper, since the witness has been called because of his knowledge about the Jewish question and the cross examination is proceeding along the lines of your direct examination, showing the extent of his knowledge.

BY COLONEL JONES:

Q Who told you that the leadership corps also participated in the demonstrations, how did you know that?

A From stories from colleages, friends and relations.

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Q In the discussion that took part after the demonstrations, was it generally recognized that the corps of political leaders were responsible for the organization of the demonstration?

A I cannot say that.

Q Was it generally recognized that they had taken part in the demonstrations?

A Stories I was told were to the effect that they had participated in some localities.

Q Were you a member of the SS at that time? You were, were you not?

A Yes.

Q I don't suppose that there was any suggestions that the SS was responsible for the demonstrations?

A I only can say definitely that I did not participate, did not receive any orders and that none of my SS colleages participated. As far as I know, if a single SS man participated I cannot say.

Q If it was not the SS and it was not the SA and it was not the corps of political leaders, what possible organization could it have been then that was responsible for the organizing of the demonstration?

A I already answered that, I do not know who organized it or if it was organized.

Q Did you know of the confiscation of Jewish property?

A As far as I had to do with it, yes, besides that I heard quite a few stories concerning it.

Q Everyone knew that Jewish property was being confiscated, did they not?

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A Yes, according to the law.

Q I would like to ask a further question on the demonstrations of 1938. Did you know that during the course of the demonstrations a large number of Jews were arrested?

A I heard that a number of Jews were put into protective custody at the time, which was mainly supposed to guard and protect them against any resistance. From my own experience, I do not know of any case.

Q Whom were they to be guarded against?

A Against demonstrations

Q Another matter. You knew ~~it~~ did you not that a very large number of Jews were being evacuated to the eastern territory?

A Yes.

Q You knew that they were being deported not only from Germany, but from other countries occupied by Germany as well.

A Yes, a number of countries.

Q Was that generally known to everybody?

A I cannot answer that. I hardly spoke to anyone concerning this question.

Q Surely you can tell me if the people in Germany were aware of the deportation to the east?

A Yes, a large number of persons probably knew that the Jews were sent to special work camps and that a large number of these work camps were located in the east.

Q Was it the SS that was responsible for the transportation of the evacuees to the east?

A Not the SS. It was the duty of Eichmann and not the SS . Most

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SS men did not know about the staff of Eichmann as it was a very small group.

Q The staff of Eichmann themselves could not have physically transported hundreds of thousands of Jews to the eastern territory.

A From what I heard, Eichmann had a pretty large contingent of helpers at his disposal, they were mostly Latins and Ukranians. I already stated yesterday that that was one of the main difficulties in contacting any of Eichmann's group because most of them did not understand German.

Q If the SS did not participate in the transportation, did the Gestapo or the SD?

A As far as the SD was concerned, the SD was an intelligence outfit as far as I know. As far as the Gestapo is concerned, I do not know for sure. I know that Eichmann was in the Reichs Security Main Office in Amt. 4, which is the Gestapo. I stated already yesterday that his position in the Reichs Security Main Office was irregular since he received all of his orders from Himmler. Therefore, it was very hard for me and the entire foreign ministry to receive answers to any questions unless they came from Eichmann.

Q I would like you to take this file.

(COLONEL JONES HANDS THE WITNESS A FILE).

The interpretor can help you to find page 31. It is Document PS 3319, U.S. 433. Look at the small numbers at the bottom of each page. Do you see on page 31 that there is a letter dated October 12, 1943?

A Yes.

Q This letter is addressed to the Gemman legation in Bukarest and is

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signed by yourself and you say, "please acknowledge."

A Yes, acknowledge.

Q Will you look at Page 31-A. Was that the enclosure for which you wanted an acknowledgement?

A Yes.

Q You see that the enclosure is an order signed by Muller. Youwill see the signature on 31-E, dated September 23, 1933 and on page 31 you see the body of that letter is Subject: Treatment of Jews with foreign citizenship in the sphere of German Power?

A Yes.

Q It says: "In agreement with the foreign Office, all Jews who remain in the sphere of German power after the end of the so-called home bringing action (Heimschoffungsaktion) and who have the citizenship of the following countries might now be included in the evacuation measures." Then it lists ten different countries?

A Yes.

Q Then it goes on: "Since the evacuation of these Jews to the East cannot yet take place at the present time, a temporary stay is provided in the concentration camp Buchenwald for male Jews over 14 years of age and in the concentration camp Ravensbruck for Jewesses as well as children."

At the beginning of that letter do you see that the first half of the distribution is to various offices of the Security Police and the SD?

A Yes.

Q There are fourteen different places?

A Yes.

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Com.
Take 1-Pg. 8
Meehan
12 June.

Q In Prague, the Hague, Paris, Oslo, Cracow, Riga, Minsk, Bohemia and Moravia and Kiev. Does that look as though the Gestapo and SD were responsible for the carrying out of the deporting of Jews?

A Yes, I know that with the number of higher SS police leaders various representatives of Eichmann were present for instance in Paris.

Q We will look at the rest of the file in a minute. If the Gestapo as an organization was not responsible why should this order have been addressed to their offices?

A The deportation had nothing to do with the liquidation. The deportation was a security action and due to the fact that it was a security measure, the foreign minister was also involved and it was especially interesting that foreign interests were not disturbed by this action. It was for that reason that these countries were given long terms in which to take back or carry back the Jews. Therefore machinery in Germany was set in order to prevent any possible political mishaps. The foreign ministry asked that the Jews not be deported immediately but that they should be placed in a place to be ready at the command of the foreign minister.

Q At Buckenwald and Ravensbruck, they were placed so they would be available to return to their country if their country kicked up a fuss about it. Is that right?

A Yes, even though the opportunity had been given the xxx foreign nations to take home their nationals and even though these Jews were in the east, it would take the permission of Himmler to allow them to return, but when these people were not in the east and in the concentration camps, then the foreign minister could settle the issue right away with the Eichmann

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bureau personally.

Q Will you look back to the letter of distribution, last page, 31B and C. Do you see that that is for the information of the Superior SS and political leaders in the Reich, Bohemia and Monravia? Do you see that that means every SS office in Germany received this order?

A No, not every SS leader, but every superior SS and police leader.

Q The next one on the distribution is the superior SS police leaders for occupied Dutch territory, the Hague,Paris, Oslo, Cracow, Riga, Minsk Bohemia and Monravia and Kiev. If they had nothing to do with the SS, why did they have to have notice of this operation all over Europe?

A I don't understand the thought behind this question.

Q Never mind the thought behind the question, you just try to concentrate on answering the question.

A I stated from the beginning that this action was in the hands of Eichmann and Eichmann since he was a member of the Reichs Security Main Office had to be informed of these actions.

Q Why did they have to be informed of these actions, if it was no concern of them and if the whole thing was to be kept secret?

A The deportation matter was not kept secret - the main point was the linquidation order was kept secret.

Q I take it that the deportation of Jews was generally known?

A That the Jews were transported to work camps in the east, yes. At least in the circle that is represented here.

Q Did you personally see nothing wrong in that operation?

A In that kind of treatment, no, I was not able to see anything wrong. After the fight against the Jewish group had started, I considered

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that every Jew was a potential friend of an enemy nation and they were a security threat during the war.

Q Was that the attitude of the SS that hundreds of thousands of Jews would be taken away from their homes, because Jews as a whole were potential enemies?

A I cannot answer that question.

Q What did you think these Jews were going to do when they got to the east?

A To work.

Q Who for?

A Mostly according to the orders by Eichmann for armament industries.

Q They were going to work for the Germans, were theynot?

A Yes.

Q Did you personally see anything wrong in forcing hundreds of thousands of foreigners and people of the Jewish race to work for Germany?

A In this case the individual countries had the chance to take these Jews back to their own countries. If these countries saw nothing wrong with it, there was no reason for me to see anything wrong with it.

Q Was that the general attitude of the SS that there was nothing wrong with this operation?

A That also I cannot answer.

Q I want to test for a moment the value of the evidence, which you have given. Why was it necessary to deport women and children if they were going to be employed in armament manufacturing?

A I already answered that question, according to what Eichammn answered to the same question when I put it to him. The Jews, according to an order

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from the Reichs Fueher of the SS were not to be separated.

Q It was not right for humanitarian reasons, was it?

A Eichmann told me it was a general known fact that in case families were separated, their working ability or capacity was lowered. In some cases older Jews who were not able to work were sent to Ravensbrueck.

Q If the object was tokeep the families together, why were the women and children separated from the men during their temporary stays in ~~Theresienstadt~~ Ravensbrueck and Buckenwald?

A That was due to the fact that certain concentration camps were only allowed to take certain groups of prisoners. For instance, the camp at Ravensbrueck was not a working camp, but a transfer camp from which the people were to be transferred to working compans.

Q How far apart was Buckenwald and Ravenbrueck?

A Buckenwald is near Theresienstadt and I don't know where Ravenbrueck is located.

Q Would you say that it would be some 200 miles?

A That would be without any significance.

Q Let me see the significance. Can you seriously say that when you sent this order on to Buchenwald you thought that the Jewish men who were to be put in Buchenwald and the women and children who were put in Ravenbrueck would ever meet up again?

A I don't think that question came to my mnd at the time. The main point at the time was that the Jews would not be sent to working camps immediately, but to temporary camps so that the foreign office could reach them or get ahold of them at any time with the special permission of the Reichs Fuehrer.

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Q Did you not know perfectly well that the Jews were being sent to the east to be murdered?

A I already answer this question, "no," under oath.

Q You took over the Jewish office in the Foreign office in April of 1943?

A Yes.

Q Before that time you had access to the foreign press?

A No concerning the Jewish question since it was not in my scope of work.

Q In your capacity in the foreign office did you have access to the reports from the foreign press?

A I, personally, did not before 1943 as before 1943 I was not in Berlin.

Q Working in the foreign office in 1942, did you never hear of the declaration which was issued simultaneously from London, Washington and Moscow on the 17th of December, 1942 and issued with the support of all allied nations and the Dominion?

A I was not concerned with the Jewish question on December 17, 1942.

Q Answer my question, did you or did you not hear of that declaration?

A No.

Q When you came to the Foreign Office in 1943, did you know anything about the Jewish question at all?

A I was never concerned with the Jewish question previous to that time, excepting as a private person. I had made a short study and travelled through Palestine before the war.

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Q Did you have to acquaint yourself with the Jewish business that was being carried on in the foreign office?

A Yes.

Q Did you do that by looking through the files and looking up such material as there was available about the Jewish problem?

A As far as it was possible yes. It was hard at that time due to the fact that a number of files had already been taken away to a place in Koumkriebel.

Q When you took over in April, 1943 and was endeavoring to acquaint yourself with the business, did no one draw attention to the declaration which had been made three or four months ago.

A I never, as far as I can remember, saw the declaration and I hear for the first time that such a declaration existed.

Q Although you were the men in charge of Jewism problems in the foreign office?

A Yes.

Q I would like to ask you if we could return to the file. In April, 1944 a conference was held of the consulants on the Jewish question from the various missons in Europe.

A Yes.

Q At the conference you addressed the assembly.

A Yes.

Q Please look at Page 16 of the file. I refer to the small numbers at the bottom of the page. You will see in the summary the minutes of your address?

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A Yes.

Q Before we deal with that, would you look at the speaker who went before you? Starting either on top of page 16, first paragraph you will see. I am told however that the English translation is wrong. The sentence should read: "The physical elimination of Eastern Jewry deprives Jewry of its biological reserves."

What did you think Ambassador Six meant by that?

A I cannot remember at this time if that sentence was spoken on this occasion.

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Q Would it have conveyed anything to you had it been spoken?

A Yes, I would have noticed it because it was just in opposition to what I said myself.

Q Well, let's see now, if it was in opposition to what you said yourself. You apparently spoke about the state of the anti-Jewish executive measures?

A Yes.

Q What do you mean by that?

A As I stated yesterday, the carrying out of the anti-Jewish Laws, that is, the transfer of all Jews to working Camps.

Q That is the only executive measure to which you were referring?

A I did not know anything concerning the executive measures concerning liquidation of Jews.

Q Let me be quite clear. When you spoke of the "Executive Measures" were you speaking of anything other than the deportation of Jews to the East?

A Yes. I was also concerned, for instance, with the transfer of Jews to working camps as they were in Bulgaria.

Q Yes, anything else?

A No.

Q So that when you spoke of "Executive Measures" you referred only to the deportation of Jews to the East and the transfer of Jews to working camps?

A Yes, instead of the impossible solution through Palestine or other p[redacted]

Q And apart from that you had no other executive measures in mind -- you referred to no other executive measures?

A Definitely not an executive measure in the sense of elimination or liquidation.

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Q Well, "Executive Measure" is your phrase, it isn't mine. I want to know what you meant by it.

A The opposite to propaganda.

Q The opposite of propaganda. Those measures were, you have told us, the transfer of Jews to working camps and their deportation to the East. I only want to know if there were any other measures which you understood as "Executive Measures" which you spoke about.

A I stated that I so considered all the measures which were to be taken instead of the solution of the Jewish question by going to Palestine; by that I mean sending of the Jews to working camps in Bulgaria, Roumania and also in Italy.

Q And those were the measures? I only want to know if there were any other executive measures or whether the ones you have told us about were the only ones you were talking about on that occasions.

A As far as I can think of, yes.

Q Well now, would you just read down and you will see that your talk closed with the following request to the representatives of the missions. Just look at #2. You asked for the preparation for the comprehension amongst all nations of the executive measures against Jews. What did you mean by that?

A It was very often protested that we could not point to a definite goal with our Jewish measures. The settlement to the East was regarded as a not sufficient interpretation, or not sufficient reason. Therefore I made the difficulties clear and I asked the representatives to see the necessity of this emergency solution.

Q You weren't asking them to try and educate people to accept the mass slaughter of Jews, like Streicher in his Stuermer was doing, were you?

A I do not know if Streicher's Stuermer attempted such an education.

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Q Never mind what Streicher's Stuermer did. Were you trying to make them comprehend the mass extermination of Jews?

A No, I personally would not have accepted it.

Q Very well. Now let me just go down to the paragraph after, #4. "As the details of the state of the executive measures in the various countries reported by ~~you~~ the Consultant are to be kept Secret" -- the Consultant is yourself, is it not?

A Yes, in the Foreign Ministry.

Q "As the details of the state of the executive measures in the various countries reported by the Consultant are to be kept Secret, it has been decided not to enter them in the protocol." That is, the minutes of the meeting. There was nothing secret about the transfer of Jews to the working camps, was there?

A No, not in the transfer but concerning the numbers.

Q There was nothing secret about the deportation of Jews to the East. That was known by everybody you have told us.

A Yes, it was known in wide circles.

Q Well then, what were these executive measures that you were talking about at this meeting which were so secret that they could not even be circulated on the minutes of the meeting?

A As I already stated, mainly the numbers. I stated yesterday already that this was due to the request of Eichmann, for whom I spoke, and I was especially glad to do it since in the speech I made the connection between the military situation and the Jewish question, which was not very sympathetic.

Q Very well, I am going to pass on now I have made the point clear. Will you look at the next paragraph. It says SS Hauptsturmfuehrer, Dr. Ballensiefen, reports about experiences made during the execution of the anti-Jewish Measures in Hungary, so that the SS appeared to be represented here.

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A Yes. Ballensiefen was a co-worker of Amt 7.

Q And now if you would look at page 13 of the file you will find a letter dated the 20th of April, a fortnight after the conference, which is sent from the Foreign Office to the German Legations all over Europe, enclosing the minutes of the meeting and you will see, halfway through the first paragraph, and I quote: "On account of their secret nature the statements made by Counselor of Legation, von Thadden and SS Hauptsturmfuehrer Ballensiefen of the Reich Security Main Office, have not been entered in the minutes." Was the only reason for the information of the representative of the RSHA being so secret the fact that it was dealing with figures?

A It was that he also gave the time during which the Jewish measures would take place in Hungary as the arrangements were completed - times that were in the future.

Q It wasn't because the RSHA was talking about the latest, most drastic executive measure that it was so secret, was it?

A No, definitely not, because as far as drastic measures were concerned in connection with the extermination of the Jews, Ballensiefen did not mention anything.

Q Well, I want to ask you about one further matter. I want you to look at page 31e and you will see that there is a note there signed by Hunsche, addressed to the Foreign Office, to be delivered to yourself. Can you tell me, does that refer to the document which goes before it - the document signed by Mueller?

A Yes.

Q Then if you will look at page 31, there is the other note which I already quoted, which is signed by yourself. That means that you are forwarding that letter on to Bucharest, is that correct?

A Yes.

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Q By that time, 1944, you were presumably fully acquainted with the Foreign Office's part in the Jewish Pogrom?

A Yes, as far as I could see in my position.

Q Well now, would you turn over to page 38, I'm sorry, first of all to page 33. Did you know about some agreements which had taken place in 1941 called the Agreements of Taghina? Perhaps if you look at page 32, that might help you. Did you know about those?

A No, I didn't know of this.

Q You had never heard about them?

A This document is unknown to me.

Q The document may well be unknown to you because it is a document found in the Bucharest Legation. I am not suggesting that you would know the document. I am asking you whether you knew the substance of the document or about what they called the Agreements of Taghina?

DR. PELKMAN: I wish the witness could be given time to read the entire document.

COLONEL GRIFFITH-JONES. I can assure Dr. Pelkman that if he did read the entire document it would not effect the answer. If it did, of course time would be allowed the witness to read the document.

Q You knew, did you not, that Jews had been deported from Roumania?

A I knew that as a whole the Jews in Roumania were concentrated in Jewish Camps in Roumania.

Q Didn't you know that a very large number of Jews had been deported from Roumania? You needn't look at the file to answer that question.

A That might have been in the very beginning but during the time that I was in the office, that is 1943, no deportation of Roumanian Jews was being made. Just the opposite. I believe it was either in April or May 1943, the Roumanian Government asked that no further deportations be made

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of Roumanian Jews and that those Roumanian Jews in concentration camps in Germany should be transferred to Jewish camps in Roumania.

Q I am not suggesting that any deportations took place after you took over the Jewish business in the Foreign Office. All I am asking you is whether or not in 1944 you did know, you had become acquainted with the history of the Jewish problem in Roumania, and of the nature of what had taken place over the last four or five years?

A I had received a number of reports, especially numbers or figures, from Eichmann.

Q And, presumably, you had a number of files in the Foreign Office about these matters?

A Probably, yes.

Q Now will you look at page 39. Do you see that there is a file memorandum dated the 17 of October 1941 and it simply reads as follows: "According to information today from director General Lecca, 110,000 Jews are being evacuated from Bukovina and Bessarabia into two forests in the Bug River area. As far as he could learn, this action is based upon an order issued by Marshal Antonescu. The purpose of the action is ~~xx~~ the liquidation of the Jews." Are you telling us that as the Foreign Office official responsible for the Jewish Question you never learned of that operation whereb y ~~xx~~ 110,000 Jews were liquidated in the forests of the Bug River?

A I did not know anything concerning this concrete measure.

Q Although in October 1943 you are sending on to Bucharest Himmler's orders for the further evacuation of all Jews from another 9 countries in Europe?

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A I already said that this document, that is page 31, is in connection with the sending home of foreign Jews and it was mainly for the reason that no political mishaps would occur. This document has nothing whatsoever to do with the liquidation.

Q You still say you didn't know of that previous operation when 110,000 Jews were murdered?

A Aside from the fact that I do not understand the connection of the questions, yes.

COLONEL GRIFFITH-JONES: No further questions.

(A recess was taken)

BY M. MONNERAY:

Q When did you enter the Foreign Office?

A On the 1st of April 1937.

Q In what part of the Foreign Office did you first work?

A In the Russian-Polish-Danzig Commission.

Q Until what time?

A Until 1940.

Q And in 1940?

A I went to the Personnel Sectin.

Q Until when?

A Until 2 February 1942.

Q And then?

A Then I became a soldier. After I was released from the hospital I came to the Newbacher in Athens.

Q What date?

A Either October or November 1942.

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Q And after that?

A Thereupon I came into the Inland Group 2.

Q On what date?

A The 8th of April 1943.

Q And what was the mission of this Group?

A The connection between the Foreign Ministry to Foreign Offices within the Reich.

Q For instance?

A For instance the Jewish question.

Q What offices?

A The Jewish question with the Office Eichmann.

Q That means Amt 4?

A Amt 4, especially Office Eichmann. Within the Group Inland 2 we had another adviser or referat who took care of the non-Jewish questions with Amt 4.

Q Which were the other German offices with which you have been in touch about the Jewish question?

A Only with Eichmann. With the exception of propaganda questions. With propaganda questions I also had to do with other offices. However, I left the propaganda matters very soon.

Q What were the references on the files in Amt 2?

A The files of Group Inland 2 had the marks A, B, C, D, and S, depending on the various Groups.

Q What was the meaning of D-2?

A The file mark D-2 was the mark of the dommission or Group Germany. This Group D-2 was later on cancelled or liquidated and part of it taken by Inland Group 1 and 2, with the exception of a few items which came to

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Department of Policy Culture or Law.

Q So that Group Inland 2 received the files of D-2?

A Part of D-2 and part of D-3.

Q What was the jurisdiction of D-3?

A D-3 was mainly Jewish questions if I remember correctly.

Q Until when did D-3 exist?

A Until March 1943.

Q And who took over this office?

A The duties of D-3 were divided - part to Inland 2, part to Policy 15.

Q When any anti-Jewish measures were carried out in the different occupied territories your representatives of the Foreign Office sent you a report, didn't they?

A That is the way it was supposed to be but quite often it was not because a large number of these anti-Jewish measures were carried out by men of Eichmann's staff, so that I did not find out until later on concerning these things.

Q Anyhow, it was the principle that all important measures were to be reported?

A They were supposed to have been, yes.

Q Your representatives in the foreign countries had the order to be in touch with the German police authorities and with the representatives of Eichmann, hadn't they?

A Yes, as far as foreign political questions were concerned.

Q You told us this morning that foreign countries concerned by the deportation of foreign Jews did not protest, so you thought there was no reason, from the German side, to be concerned about the deportation of Jews?

A I said that in connection with the returning action of Jews.

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Q But your representatives had the task of getting the representatives of Occupied Territories to agree to the deportation of Jews, hadn't they?

A That could not be said in such a way. Since 1943 it was hardly possible anywhere to make the measures more severe and to what extent the Foreign Ministry was connected with measures before 1943 I do not know; the sending of representatives of the Staff Eichmann to the various governments was done before 1943 with the exception of Hungary.

Q But you told us that during the meeting in April 1944 that it was necessary to obtain by the diplomatic channel more severe measures against the Jews, isn't that so?

A That was especially concerning Roumania because from Roumania continual transports went to Palestine, which was very oppressing to us due to the continual intervention of the Arabs.

Q In order to obtain those more severe measures your representatives in the foreign countries had to cooperate with the representatives of Eichmann, didn't they?

A In occupied territories?

Q Well, territories under the German control. Whether wholly occupied or not wholly occupied, it makes no difference at this point of view.

A Because in occupied territories the Foreign Ministry had hardly anything to do with it.

Q Do you contend that your representative in France, Abetz, had no action?

A I cannot say. I only know that Petain issued an order concerning the taking away of citizenship of French Jews. I do not know how far Abetz was connected with this. I did not receive any report concerning this.

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Q Do you maintain that no liaison existed between representatives of Eichmann and your representative?

A It was wholly different in the various countries.

Q Did you have special Jewish experts in the different diplomatic agencies?

A No, but we asked only that on questions concerning propaganda that some specific person would take the propaganda measures.

Q And the purpose of this propaganda was to facilitate the carrying out of the Eichmann Action wasn't it?

A No, one can't say that absolutely. It was general anti-Jewish propaganda and of course the necessity became evident through that propaganda that the Jews would have to be neutralized for the duration of the war.

Q When you presented and recommended that strong anti-Jewish propaganda during the meeting of April 1944, you did it in connection with the Eichmann Action, didn't you?

A I did it at the wish of Eichmann but we had a second reason for it. We of the Foreign Ministry were not satisfied with the large extent of the anti-Jewish propaganda. That is why we were interested through our membership to be able to control this propaganda. If the representatives of the Office Eichmann, Office Ballensiefen and the Office Rosenberg were informed of our activity we hoped that we would be able to participate in such a way. That is why it came to this anti-Jewish action at all upon the orders of the Reich Foreign Minister.

Q Now I just want to read the summing up of your lecture: "Counsellor von Thadden speaks about the Jewish-political situation in Europe and about the state of the anti-Jewish, executive measures. The speaker gave an outline why the Zionist Palestine solution or other similar

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solutions must be rejected and the deportation of the Jews to the Eastern territories, carried out. Then he sketched the present state of anti-Jewish measures in all European countries.

The speaker then relates the counter-measures taken by world-Jewry against the German anti-Jewish measures in Europe.

The lecture closed with the following request to the representatives of the missions:

1.) Suppression of all propaganda even camouflaged as anti-Jewish, liable to slow down or handicap the German executive measures.

2.) Preparation for the comprehension among all nations of executive measures against Jewry.

3.) Constant reports about the possibility of carrying out more severe measures against Jewy in the various countries by using diplomatic channels."

You still maintain, probably, that your action, the action of your missions, had not the purpose to help the execution of the Eichmann Action?

A I stated before and I state again that this was the wish of Eichmann and that we of the Foreign Ministry wanted to be connected with the anti-Jewish propaganda in this way.

Q So before you had no interventions in this matter, had you?

A In many cases the orders went over our heads and against our wishes, against our wills.

Q I just want to show you Document 3688-PS Exhibit RF 1502. It is a note signed by Luetter, the 24th of September 1942, and ~~reproaching~~ enclosing the order of Ribbentrop to get in touch with the different governments in Slovakia, Bohemia, Roumania and in the Occupied Territories and in Denmark, in order to carry out the deportation of Jews.

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DR. PELKMAN: Has the Document already been presented before the Tribunal?

M. MONNERAY: It is RF 1502 - I mentioned that before.

Q Do you still maintain that the different offices of the Foreign Office had no knowledge of the Jewish questions and that only two or three officials knew about it?

A I never claimed that. I only said that as far as the liquidation or murder was concerned.

Q Did you tell us yesterday that only two or three officials of the Foreign Office knew about the Eichmann Action?

A I don't believe so?

Q Didn't you say today that in order to get any information about the Eichmann Action you had to go to Eichmann himself?

A That is right.

Q And you still maintain that in the different offices of the Foreign Office there were no files like this one and no reports coming from the different Missions who wrote about the measures carried out against the Jews?

A No. As I repeated previously, the Missions were supposed to report but very often it did not happen, so that very often I had to get my information directly from Eichmann.

Q Didn't you say this morning that different departments of the Foreign Office, such as D-2 and D-3 and afterwards D-3 and Inland II had files of jurisdiction about the Jewish Question?

A Concerning the Jewish Question, yes.

Q Do you see that this note has been sent along to D-2 and D-3?

A Yes.

Q And to the State Secretary?

A Yes.

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Q You told us yesterday that the State Secretary did not get any reports from Eichmann.

A The State Secretary did not receive any information from Eichmann concerning certain protests from the Foreign Ministry.

Q But he knew about the general action of Eichmann, didn't he?

A Of course he was informed concerning the deportation.

Q What was the name of the State Secretary?

A Stehngart.

Q And what was the position of Lueter?

A Under-State Secretary and Chief of the Office Deutschland.

Q Had he to deal with the Jewish Question?

A He was Chief of the Group Deutschland in 1942, before Group 2 was liquidated.

Q Who was Ballensiefen?

A Ballensiefen was a co-worker of Amt VII and it was his duty, as far as I know, to aid in scientific research of the Jewish Question.

Q Was he a member of the SD?

A I do not know. He was a member of the Reich Security Main Office.

Q Whey did he give a lecture on the Eichmann Action in Hungary?

A Because he had just come from Hungary and was best informed since he had just come from Budapest where he was engaged in the building up of an anti-Jewish Scientific Research Institute.

Q Who was Dr. Six?

A Dr. Six, at that time when he spoke, was Chief of the Political Culture Group of the Foreign Ministry.

Q Had he to deal with Jewish questions?

A The propaganda problem was under him according to the order of the Minister.

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Q You were under his authority, weren't you?

A No.

Q The Information Stelle 14 - was it under his authority?

A That was under Schleier, who was the representative or the deputy of Six.

Q Can you tell me where Dr. Six was before being the Chief of the Political Culture Group?

A He was a professor in a University in Berlin and, if I remember correctly, Chief of Amt VII of the RSHA.

Q Do you know whether he was a member of the SD?

A If he was a member of Amt VII he must have been a member of RSHA.

Q Do you know that Amt VII was a part of the SD?

A I can't answer that question.

Q Who was Counsellor of Legation Rademacher?

A Rademacher was on the staff of the Legation and my forerunner in the job of the Jewish Question.

Q He was in touch with Eichmann, wasn't he?

A Yes.

Q Where was he afterwards?

A A soldier.

Q Do you know what the functions of the experts for Aryanization were?

A If you mean the experts that were sent to the foreign governments concerning this question I do not know fore sure what you mean.

Q Those experts, according to your transcript of the meeting of April 1944, depended on the RSHA and were attached to the different German Missions abroad.

A Yes, there were such.

Q What was their mission?

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A As far as we knew it was their duty to aid the foreign governments in questions concerning Aryanization.

Q On what part of the RSHA were they depending?

A Amt IV, that is Staff Eichmann, named them.

Q So in each German Mission abroad, or in many missions, you had a representative of Eichmann inside of the German Mission, didn't you?

A Yes.

Q And you maintain no liaison existed between this official and your foreign affairs official inside of the Mission?

A In some cases there was such a liaison. In others I am sorry to say there was not.

Q And if this liaison existed then your representative made a report about the reports received from this expert, didn't he?

A Yes, if he considered these facts important for foreign policy.

Q Do you think that the killing of 110,000 Jews was considered as important from the point of view of foreign policy?

A I would suppose so.

Q Do you still maintain that no report has been made concerning the killing of 110,000 Roumanian Jews, which my British colleague presented to you just this morning?

A There is no indication or nothing in the report that would suggest that this report was presented to the Foreign Ministry and I cannot remember that I have ever seen any such report, even though it would have attracted my attention had I seen it.

Q If your representative in Bucharest had received this report do you think he would have communicated it to you in Berlin?

A Yes, I would suppose that.

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Q Well, this report has been found in the files of the German Legation in Bucharest and this report says that a conference has been held at this point with Antonescu. Do you contend that the result of this conference has not at least been reported?

A That was just one of the main reasons for our protest. Very often ~~th~~ we were not informed of any such discussions, especially concerning Aryanization. In addition to that, the Aryanization experts had the chance to send their reports directly to the RSHA Offices, without them going to the Reich Foreign Office.

Q But these have been found in the Archives of the German Legation.

A If he had his office there, of course, but that doesn't mean that the Chief of the Mission had the files.

Q During this meeting in April 1944 all the different representatives of the different departments of the Foreign Office attended, didn't they?

A Yes, one representative of each mission participated. For instance the Aryanization expert was there from Sofia.

Q And also the representatives of the departments of the Foreign Office in Berlin attended this conference?

A Yes, four or five men.

Q For instance, the representation of the Informationsstelle?

A Yes.

Q And Inland II?

A That was I.

Q And the department for Commercial Policy?

A Just the one that was connected with the propaganda question of Commercial Politics.

Q And the Department for Cultural Policy?

A Yes, that was representative Schleier.

H0953-0033

Q No, it was Dr. Six.

A That is true; Schleier was representative of Dr. Six and was also there.

Q And a representative of the Radio Department?

A Yes, Professor Mahr.

Q And the Press and Information Departments?

A I cannot say about those representatives.

Q And you still maintain that about the executive measures carried out by Eichmann, those measures exposed by the different speeches, you still maintain that only two or three officials in the Foreign Office knew about this matter?

A I never claimed that.

Q So you admit that many people in the Foreign Office knew about the deportation of Jews?

A As far as the transferring into Working Camps, yes.

Q And you maintain that nobody was talking about the final destiny of those people?

A Yes. We very often said that a final solution had to be found since the Palestine Solution was not acceptable - that some other solution would have to be found.

Q Didn't you ask your foreign representatives to send you Jewish material and Jewish newspapers?

A Yes, but that was necessary for my information.

Q But nobody knew about the actual execution and deportation of Jews?

A As I stated previously in direct opposition to these foreign

H0953-0034

reports was the statement of the Reichsfuehrer SS and of the Office Eichmann, the official German Office, which maintained that no such destruction or no such liquidation was taking place.

M. MONNERAY. I have no further questions.

(A recess was taken until 1415 hours.)

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(The hearing reconvened at 1400 hours, 12 June 1946)

VON THADDEN * Resumed
RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION - Continued.

BY DR. PELKMANN:

Q I have only a few questions arising from the cross examination and I shall put these questions xxxx chronologically.

You have been questioned on the anti-Jewish demonstrations of the 9th and 10th of November, 1938, and have been asked for the reason as to why you, as a SS leader, had no detailed information about this. You have told us already that you were an SS honorary leader. Will you please explain that more definitely, and tell us whether you had any duties to perform within the SS?

A I performed no duties of any kind within the SS. My party uniform, the unfform was given me when I received it solely for the purpose of accompanying some diplomats to one of the party rallies and to be able to wear a uniform for that occasion. My name was on file with the SS Central Bureau, as any honorary leader, but no other obligation for myself arose from this fact.

Q Will you state the reason why in your capacity as an SS leader, you could have no knowledge of the events of the 9th and 10th of November, 1938?

A From the SS no instructions or anything else were

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issued to me.

Q The question was asked you whether you concerned yourself with the Jewish question at all until your employment as intelligence towards the Jewish questions. You said that previously you didn't concern yourself with the Jewish question at all? Is that true?

A With the exception I have already mentioned of my trip to Palestine which was a trip for the personal purpose of study.

Q Would you say that you were especially qualified on the Jewish question or in the other fields that caused you to be given this position in the foreign office in 1943?

A No, the sole reason for my being given this position was that the Chief of the Inland Group No. 2 knew me personally and wanted me to be one of his employees.

Q I want to ask you some questions concerning the matter and method of this Jewish question. Were there any departments in the foreign office that concerned themselves with the Jewish question and was there a special desk or division in the office that concerned itself with the Jewish ~~and questions of propaganda~~ question?

A For questions of propaganda there were several such departments in the different sections. Everything that did not include propaganda was my work.

Q But were you ~~xxx~~ the person who was the authoritative one for all of these questions or did you have

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someone superior to you?

A There was a chief of departments superior to me and superior to him Secretary of State and superior to him the Minister.

Q By means of the questions asked during cross examination I should like to find out whether you were a decided Jewish opponent or an anti-Semitic person. You were asked how the Jews happened to be deported and placed under hard labor and according to my notes you answered:

"I realized that now the fight against the Jews had been begun every Jew, especially during war time, was a danger to the state, and had to be supervised or perhaps collected in camps."

Do you mean to say that this was, in your opinion, the method with which the Jews were to be fought, or do you mean to say that now that the Jews had been drawn into a defensive position, it would only be natural they would try to defend themselves, and would, thus, have to be guarded?

A I wanted the Jewish question to be settled in an evolutionary manner, but the form which the question has taken was only natural to lead to opposition by the Jews, and, therefore, the result of this opposition that the Jews would have to have now was that safety measures were unavoidable against these people who had now become enemies.

H0953-0038

Q A document has been submitted to you that you had sent in connection with the internment of the Jews to all higher SS and police leaders abroad, and you have been asked if the conclusion drawn from this could be that every SS and police leader outside and within the Reich received this communication and you said "no." Will you please tell me why you have answered the question with "no" and tell me the difference between the superior SS and police leaders and SS leaders.

A The document was not sent by myself to the superior and police leaders but by ~~xx~~ the Reich Main Security Office. That is right. The superior SS and police leaders were the spearhead of the individual police authorities in the different districts.

Q And what was the connection between those superior SS leaders and the SS leaders, did they have any connection at all?

A They had nothing to do whatsoever with the members of the General SS. They only had a connection with the security police, the regular uniformed police and the SD.

Q You were asked the question whether when you received this special commission in 1943, you occupied yourself with the files and documents which had come there in the meantime. Could you carry on such an examination? Were there any documents and did you

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have the time to occupy yourself with studying these documents from a previous time?

A The documents that were there were restricted in number because of the conditions they had been sent to an emergency depot.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Dr. Pelkmann, he has already testified to this before. If you have any additional questions I wish you would confine yourself along those lines, but he has already testified to this before.

DR. PELKMANN: He only mentioned one reason and I asked him for a second reason, which he just mentioned, that he did not have sufficient time to study these documents.

WITNESS: My own department only included Jewish questions. I also had other work to do so on this matter I could only spend the time that was absolutely necessary for this.

BY DR. PELKMANN:

Q Tell us what other missions you had?

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Unless his other work is relevant I don't see the point in it. ~~He has shown~~ Is it to show he was not completely informed about his job because he did not have time to study? ~~and~~ Whether it was connected with the Jewish question or not, we can let it go without showing why it was. He was not informed

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DR. PELKMANN: But the Prosecution has tried to question the credibility of this witness and has said that he should have known about these things by having been able to study these documents.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: The witness has testified he was unable to devote all of his time to this work. Why can't we let the matter rest there unless it is brought out by further cross examination of the witness.

BY DR. PELKMANN:

Q A document was presented to you dated the 17th of October, 1941, concerning the execution of 110,000 Jews in the woods near Bug. When you were asked questions as to whether you had seen the document you answered in the negative, and you especially pointed out that the document itself does not show this document was ever sent to the foreign office, but you were then asked whether the fact in the communication that these Jews had been exterminated would not have had to be reported to the representatives of the foreign office in Bucharest? What would your answer be if there were presented to you the references and file numbers showing that, what would your answer be to the question if I tell you that a communication concerning this reference number was not found among the documents of the Bucharest delegation, and cannot be presented to you by the Prosecution. Are you of the opinion that at least a copy of such communication must be with the documents of the Bucharest delegation, if such a communi-

H0953-0041

cation had ever been sent?

A Yes, I am of the opinion that such a copy would have had to be there.

Q And would the fact that such a copy was not presented to you lead you to conclude that the foreign office was not informed of this at least in writing?

A That is what I would assume and that would also correspond to Eichmann's testimony concerning the executions and keeping them secret and so on.

Q You gave a declaration concerning the secrecy clause of the Krumhuble Tamung, April 1944, and you said that one of the reasons for keeping the execution of this action secret was that for military reasons it would have to be kept secret. That has not been answered quite clearly enough. Will you please say what connection there is between the carrying out of the Jewish action in the occupied territories and the military situation?

A In the countries -

COLONEL ORLOV: I don't understand why those questions are put to the witness.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: It is a perfectly proper question. If military necessity required part of the program it would be a relevant question.

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BY DR. PELKMANN:

Q I shall repeat the question. What connection is there between your statement concerning the carrying out of the Jewish question and the military situation in the occupied territories?

A The more unfavorable the military situation in these countries towards the East became the less inclined was the population to carry out our measures concerning the Jewish question.

Q You told us by mentioning the different countries what difficulties the carrying out of that program had in the occupied territories?

A Yes, I said that after Stalingrad, especially in Roumania, the action and the course taken, especially by Antonescu, were directly opposed to what they had been previously.

Q You were asked about a man who participated in a conference called Ballensiefen, and especially as to whether he represented the SS. You said, yes, he came before the RSHA, Amt. 7. Is this answer quite correct, does that mean he came to the SS?

A The answer is not quite correct in so far as Von Thadden was the representative of Amt. 7, that is, of the RSHA, and not of the SS.

Q You were asked as to whether you knew anything

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about the Eichmann action, and you here said, you have testified previously that if any one wanted to find out anything about the Eichmann action, he would have to ask Eichmann himself. Is that answer quite correct? Is it not rather that if any one wanted to know something about special points of complaint that it was then only Eichmann who could give the information.

A I believe I tried to clarify this point. We people knew about the trans-settlement of Jews to the Eastern District.

Q Then it was not a secret then only that Eichmann knew?

A That in itself was not a secret, but what happened to the Jews could only be found out for certain from Eichmann or from the Reichsfuhrer himself.

Q The Prosecutor has asked the question and you answered it that the foreign intelligence received in a restricted fashion the facts concerning the destruction of Jews, and that they were not believed by you because of official declarations by Eichmann and Himmler, that such action had not taken place. Is that a fact that this was an official communication the sole reason why you believed it, or was it because you had convinced yourself by personal investigation and trips that these foreign intelligence reports could not be true?

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A Yes, I had no reason to doubt Himmler's official declaration, especially since I personally was able to convince myself/that numerous reports received from abroad were false. For example, I should like to stress this point again,/the burning of the Jews inTheresienstadt.

Q You were asked whether you knew anything about the declaration from London of December 1942? Do you know that such publications of the German enemy at that time were not published in the German press or/rather made known in public?

A As far as I know such communications were not published in the German press.

Q If you had no possibility of learning of this declarations by means of the German press and radio, would you have received such information through your official channels by reason of your official position?

A I received the information published on the Jewish questions in the foreign press and broadcast over the foreign radio.

Q Do you know if this declaration of London of December 1942 was mentioned in the Jewish special division of the foreign office?

A I don't remember ever having been shown this declaration.

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Q Were the people mentioned by the ~~xxx~~ Prosecution, Messrs. Schleier and Rademacher, your superiors?

A No.

~~Dr Rek~~

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The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of EVERHARD VON THADDEN, taken on the 12 June 1946.

Alice Meehan
Reporter 1-14

Mabel A. Lesser
Reporter 15-33

Rose W Cook
Reporter 34-44

CERTIFIED TO:

Joseph F Tubridy
Commissioner

Commissioner.

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

12 June 1946.

COMMISSIONER:

Captain Tubridy.

THE SS

(THE COMMISSION CONVENED AT 1000 HOURS.)

EBERHARD VON THADDEN, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: You are reminded that you are still under oath.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

CROSS EXAMINATION RESUMED

BY COLONEL JONES:

Q. Yesterday, you stated that you had no knowledge of the extermination of the Jews. I now want to ask you if you had knowledge of other matters. You knew, did you not, of the boycott against the Jews in April of 1933?

A. Yes.

Q. You knew, did you not, of the demonstration of November, 1938?

A. Yes, I found out afterwards with sorrow.

Q. You knew either the night it occurred, or the day afterwards I suppose?

A. The next day when I saw the results.

Q. Who organized the demonstrations, who was responsible for them?

A. I cannot say that. I was an SS man and I was in no way connected with them. The first time I knew of it was when I saw the results the next day.

Q. Please understand me, I was not suggesting that you were, but I wanted to know if you knew who was responsible.

A. I only can say that we, of the foreign ministry, did not approve of it and saw it with sorrow. I do not know now and at that time was not able to

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find out who was the guilty person or the organization that gave the order.

Q. Who were the people chiefly prominent in the demonstration?

A. I cannot say since I was not a witness to any of these demonstrations.

Q. I suppose after they occured, there was considerable talk among the people in Germany about the demonstrations.

A. Yes since quite a bit of valuable property was destroyed and our minister did not like the propaganda that resulted.

Q. Whom, or what organizations, was generally blamed?

A. That is very hard to answer. I knew that SA members and members of the political leaders participated.

Q. How do you know that SA men participated.

A. That is what I heard from what was said in the prosecution.

Q. Was it generally known that the SA had participated in the demonstrations?

A. I cannot say that because I was in Berlin. From what I heard later on, I found out there was quite different views depending on the locality.

Q. I am asking you what the general opinion was about it at the time. Was it the general opinion at the time that the SA had largely contributed toward the demonstrations of November, 1938?

A. I am very sorry that I cannot answer the question. I am not in a position to know what took place and what groups participated.

DR. PELKMAN: May I object to the previous question. The witness stated previously that he had no personal information and if he is supposed to give the opinion of the general public, I don't think that would be considered as direct evidence.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: I take it that the witness was supposed to have general knowledge of the situation.

DR. PELKMAN: I want to state that that is not the truth. This man was to be questioned about the Jew question since 1943 when he actively started to work on the Jewish question.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: This line of questioning is perfectly proper, since

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the witness has been called because of his knowledge about the Jewish question and the cross examination isproceeding along the lines of your direct examination showing the extent of his knowledge.

BY COLONEL JONES:

Q. Who told you that the leadership corps also participated in the demonstrations, how did you know that?

A. From stories from colleagues, friends and relations.

Q In the discussion that took part after the demonstrations, was it generally recognized that the corps of political leaders were responsible for the organization of the demonstration ?

A I cannot say that.

Q Was it generally recognized that they had taken part in the demonstrations ?

A Stories I was told were to the effect that they had participated in some localities.

Q Were you a member of the SS at that time ? You were, were you not ?

A Yes.

Q I don't suppose that there was any suggestions that the SS was responsible for the demonstrations ?

A I only can say definitely that I did not participate, did not receive any orders and that none of my SS colleagues participated. As far as I know, if a single SS man participated I cannot say.

Q If it was not the SS and it was not the SA and it was not the corps of political leaders, what possible organization could it have been then that was responsible for the organizing of the demonstration ?

A I already answered that, I do not know who organized it or if it was organized.

Q Did you know of the confiscation of Jewish property ?

A As far as I had to do with it, yes, besides that I heard quite a few stories concerning it.

Q Everyone knew that Jewish property was being confiscated, did they not?

A Yes, according to the law.

Q I would like to ask a further question on the demonstrations of 1938. Did you know that during the course of the demonstrations a large number of Jews were arrested ?

A I heard that a number of Jews were put into protective custody at the time, which was mainly supposed to guard and protect them against any resistance. From my own experience, I do not know of any case.

Q Whom were they to be guarded against ?

A Against demonstrations.

Q Another matter. You knew did you not that a very large number of Jews were being evacuated to the eastern territory ?



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A Yes.

Q You knew that they were being deported not only from Germany, but from other countries occupied by Germany as well.

H0953 - 0050

A Yes, a number of countries.

Q Was that generally known to everybody ?

A I cannot answer that. I hardly spoke to anyone concerning this question.

Q Surely you can tell me if the people in Germany were aware of the deportation to the east ?

A Yes, a large number of persons probably knew that the Jews were sent to special work camps and that a large number of these work camps were located in the east.

Q Was it the SS that was responsible for the transportation of the evacuees to the east ?

A Not the SS. It was the duty of Eichmann and not the SS. Most SS men did not know about the staff of Eichmann as it was a very small group.

Q The staff of Eichmann themselves could not have physically transported hundreds of thousands of Jews to the eastern territory.

A From what I heard, Eichmann had a pretty large contingent of helpers at his disposal, they were mostly Latins and Ukranians. I already stated yesterday that that was one of the main difficulties in contacting any of Eichmann's group because most of them did not understand German.

Q If the SS did not participate in the transportation, did the Gestapo or the SD ?

A As far as the SD was concerned, the SD was an intelligence outfit as far as I know. As far as the Gestapo is concerned, I do not know for sure. I know that Eichmann was in the Reichs Security Main Office in Amt. 4, which is the Gestapo. I stated already yesterday that his position in the Reichs Security Main Office was irregular since he received all of his orders from Himmler. Therefore, it was very hard for me and the entire foreign ministry to receive answers to any questions unless they came from Eichmann.

Q I would like you to take this file.

( COLONEL JONES HANDS THE WITNESS A FILE )

The interpretor can help you to find page 31. It is Document PS 3319,U.S.

433. Look at the small numbers at the bottom of each page. Do you see on page 31 that there is a letter dated October 12, 1943 ?

A Yes.

Q This letter is addressed to the German legation in Bukarest and is



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signed by yourself and you say, "please acknowledge."

A Yes, acknowledge.

Q Will you look at Page 31-A. Was that the enclosure for which you wanted an acknowledgement?

A Yes.

Q You see that the enclosure is an order signed by Muller. You will see the signature on 31-E, dated September 23, 1933, and on page 31 you see the body of that letter is Subject: Treatment of Jews with foreign citizenship in the sphere of German Power?

A Yes.

Q It says: "In agreement with the foreign Office, all Jews who remain in the sphere of German power after the end of the so-called home bringing action (Heimschoffungsaktion) and who have the citizenship of the following countries might now be included in the evacuation measures." Then it lists ten different countries?

A Yes.

Q Then it goes on: "Since the evacuation of these Jews to the East cannot yet take place at the present time, a temporary stay is provided in the concentration camp Buchenwald for male Jews over 14 years of age and in the concentration camp Ravensbruck for Jewesses as well as children."

At the beginning of that letter do you see that the first half of the distribution is to various offices of the Security Police and the SD?

A Yes.

Q There are fourteen different places?

A Yes.

Q In Prague, the Hague, Paris, Oslo, Cracow, Riga, Minsk, Bohemia and Moravia and Kiev. Does that look as though the Gestapo and SD were responsible for the carrying out of the deporting of Jews?

A Yes, I know that with the number of higher SS police leaders various representatives of Eichmann were present for

H0953-0053

instance in Paris.

Q We will look at the rest of the file in a minute. If the Gestapo as an organization was not responsible why should this order have been addressed to their offices?

A The deportation had nothing to do with the liquidation. The deportation was a security action and due to the fact that it was a security measure, the foreign minister was also involved and it was especially interesting that foreign interests were not disturbed by this action. It was for that reason that these countries were given long terms in which to take back or carry back the Jews. Therefore machinery in Germany was set in order to prevent any possible political mishaps. The foreign ministry asked that the Jews not be deported immediately but that they should be placed in a place to be ready at the command of the foreign minister.

Q At Buckenwald and Ravensbrudk they were placed so they would be available to return to their country if their country kicked up a fuss about it. Is that right?

A Yes, even though the opportunity had been given the foreign nations to take home their nationsla and even though these Jews were in the east, it would take the permission of Himmler to allow them to return, but when these people were not in the east and in the concentration camps, then the foreign minister could settle the issue right away with the Eichmann bureau personally.

Q Will you look back to the letter of distribution, last page, 31B and C. Do you see that that is for the information of the Superior SS and political leaders in the Reich, Bohemia and Moravia? Do you see that that means every SS office in Germany received this order?

A No, not every SS leader, but every superior SS and police leader.

Q The next one on the distribution is the superior SS police leaders for occupied Dutch territory, the Hague, Paris, Oslo, Cracow, Riga, Minsk, Bohemia and Moravia and Kiev. If

they had nothing to do with the SS, why did they have to have notice of this operation all over Europe?

A I don't understand the thought behind this question.

Q Never mind the thought behind the question, you just try to concentrate on answering the question.

A I stated from the beginning that this action was in the hands of Eichmann and Eichmann since he was a member of the Reichs Security Main Office had to be informed of these actions.

Q Why did they have to be informed of these actions, if it was no concern of them and if the whole thing was to be kept secret?

A The deportation matter was not kept secret - the main point was the liquidation order was kept secret.

Q I take it that the deportation of Jews was generally known?

A That the Jews were transported to work camps in the east, yes. At least in the circle that is represented here.

Q Did you personally see nothing wrong in that operation?

A In that kind of treatment, no, I was not able to see anything wrong. After the fight against the Jewish group had started, I considered

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that every Jew was a potential friend of an enemy nation and they were a security threat during the war.

Q Was that the attitude of the SS that hundreds of thousands of Jews would be taken away from their homes, because Jews as a whole were potential enemies?

A I cannot answer that question.

Q What did you think these Jews were going to do when they got to the east?

A To work.

Q Who for?

A Mostly according to the orders by Eichmann for armament industries.

Q They were going to work for the Germans, were they not?

A Yes.

Q Did you personally see anything wrong in forcing hundreds of thousands of foreigners and people of the Jewish race to work for Germany?

A In this case the individual countries had the chance to take these Jews back to their own countries. If these countries saw nothing wrong with it, there was no reason for me to see anything wrong with it.

Q Was that the general attitude of the SS that there was nothing wrong with this operation?

A That also I cannot answer.

Q I want to test for a moment the value of the evidence, which you have given. Why was it necessary to deport women and children if they were going to be employed in armament manufacturing?

A I already answered that question, according to what Eichmann answered to the same question when I put it to him. The Jews, according to an order from the Reichs Fuehrer of the SS were not to be separated.

Q It was not right for humanitarian reasons, was it?

A Eichmann told me it was a general known fact that in case families were separated, their working ability or capacity was lowered. In some cases older Jews who were not able to work were sent to Ravensbrueck.

Q If the object was to keep the families together, why were the women and children separated from the men during their temporary stays in Ravensbrueck

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and Buckenwald?

A That was due to the fact that certain concentration camps were only allowed to take certain groups of prisoners. For instance, the camp at Ravensbrueck was not a working camp, but a transfer camp from which the people were to be transferred to working camps.

Q How far apart was Buckenwald and Ravensbrueck?

A Buckenwald is near Theresienstadt and I don't know where Ravensbrueck is located.

Q Would you say that it would be some 200 miles?

A That would be without any significance.

Q Let me see the significance. Can you seriously say that when you sent this order on to Buchenwald you thought that the Jewish men who were to be put in Buchenwald and the women and children who were put in Ravensbrueck would ever meet up again?

A I don't think that question came into my mind at the time. The main point at the time was that the Jews would not be sent to working camps immediately, but to temporary camps so that the foreign office could reach them or get ahold of them at any time with the special permission of the Reichs Fuehrer.

Q Did you not know perfectly well that the Jews were being sent to the east to be murdered?

A I already answered this question, "no", under oath.

Q You took over the Jewish office in the Foreign Office in April of 194

A Yes.

Q Before that time you had access to the foreign press?

A Not concerning the Jewish question since it was not in my scope of wo

Q In your capacity in the foreign office did you have access to the reports from the foreign press?

A I, personally, did not before 1943 as before 1943 I was not in Berlin.

Q Working in the foreign office in 1942, did you never hear of the declaration which was issued simultaneously from London, Washington and Moscow on the 17th of December, 1942 and issued with the support of all allied nations and the Dominion?

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A I was not concerned with the Jewish question on December 17, 1942.

Q Answer my question, did you or did you not hear of that declaration?

A No.

Q When you came to the Foreign Office in 1943, did you know anything about the Jewish question at all?

A I was never concerned with the Jewish question previous to that time, excepting as a private person. I had made a short study and travelled through Palestine before the war.

Q Did you have to acquaint yourself with the Jewish business that was being carried on in the foreign office ?

A Yes.

Q Did you do that by looking through the files and looking up such material as there was available about the Jewish problem ?

A As far as it was possible yes. It was hard at that time due to the fact that a number of files had already been taken away to a place in Koumkriebel.

Q When you took over in April, 1943 and was endeavoring to acquaint yourself with the business, did no one draw attention to the declaration which had been made three or four months ago.

A I never, as far as I can remember, saw the declaration and I hear for the first time that such a declaration existed.

Q Although you were the men in charge of Jewish problems in the foreign office ?

A Yes.

Q I would like to ask you if we could return to the file. In April, 1944 a conference was held of the consulants on the Jewish question from the various missions in Europe.

A Yes.

Q At the conference you addressed the assembly.

A Yes.

Q Please look at Page 16 of the file. I refer to the small numbers at the bottom of the page. You will see in the summary the minutes of your adress ?

A Yes.

Q Before we deal with that, would you look at the speaker who went before you ? Starting either on top of page 16, first paragraph you will se I am told however that the English translation is wrong. The sentence should read : "The physical elimination of Eastern Jewry deprives Jewry of its biological reserves."

What did you think Ambassador Six meant by that ?

A I cannot remember at this time if that sentence was spoken on this occasion.



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Q Would it have conveyed anything to you had it been spoken ?

A Yes, I would have noticed it because it was just in opposition to what I said myself.

Q Well, let's see now, if it was in opposition to what you said yourself. You apparently spoke about the state of the anti-Jewish executive measures ?

A Yes.

Q What do you mean by that ?

A As I stated yesterday, the carrying out of the anti-Jewish Laws, that is, the transfer of all Jews to working Camps.

Q That is the only executive measure to which you were referring ?

A I did not know anything concerning the executive measures concerning liquidation of Jews.

Q Let me be quite clear. When you spoke of the "Executive Measures" were you speaking of anything other than the Deportation of Jews to the East ?

A Yes. I was also concerned, for instance, with the transfer of Jews to working camps as they were in Bulgaria.

Q Yes, anything else ?

A No.

Q So that when you spoke of "Executive Measures" you referred only to the deportations of Jews to the East and the transfer of Jews to working camps?

A Yes, instead of the impossible solution through Palestine or other points.

Q And apart from that you had no other executive measures in mind — you referred to no other executive measures ?

A Definitely not an executive measure in the sense of elimination or liquidation.



H0953-0059

H0953-0060

Well, "Executive Measure" is your phrase, it isn't mine. I want to know what you meant by it.

A The opposite to propaganda.

" The opposite of propaganda. Those measures were, you have told us, the transfer of Jews to working camps and their deportation to the East. I only want to know if there were any other measures which you understood as "Executive Measures" which you spoke about.

A I stated that I so considered all the measures which were to be taken instead of the solution of the Jewish question by going to Palestine; by that I mean sending of the Jews to working camps in Bulgaria, Roumania and also in Italy.

Q And those were the measures? I only want to know if there were any other executive measures or whether the ones you have told us about were the only ones you were talking about on that occasions.

A As far as I can think of, yes.

Q Well now, would you just read down and you will see that your talk closed with the following request to the representatives of the missions. Just look at #2. You asked for the preparation for the comprehension among all nations of the executive measures against Jews. What did you mean by that

A It was very often protested that we could not point to a definite goal with our Jewish measures. The resettlement to the East was regarded as a not sufficient interpretation, or not sufficient reason. Therefore I made the difficulties clear and I asked the representatives to see the necessity of this emergency solution.

Q You weren't asking them to try and educate people to accept the mass slaughter of Jews, like Streicher in his Stuermer was doing, were you?

A I do not know if Streicher's Stuermer attempted such an education.

Q Never mind what Streicher's Stuermer did. Were you trying to make them comprehend the mass extermination of Jews?

A No, I personally would not have accepted it.

Q Very well. Now let me just go down to the paragraph after, #4. "As the details of the state of the executive measures in the various countries reported by the Consultant are to be kept Secret" -- the Consultant is

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yourself, is it not?

A Yes, in the Foreign Ministry.

Q "As the details of the state of the executive measures in the various countries reported by the Consultant are to be kept Secret, it has been decided not to enter them in the Protocol." That is, the minutes of the meeting. There was nothing secret about the transfer of Jews to the working camps, was there?

A No, not in the transfer but concerning the numbers.

Q There was nothing secret about the deportation of Jews to the East. That was known by everybody you have told us.

A Yes, it was known in wide circles.

Q Well then, what were these executive measures that you were talking about at this meeting which were so secret that they could not even be circulated on the minutes of the meeting?

A As I already stated, mainly the numbers. I stated yesterday already that this was due to the request of Eichmann, for whom I spoke, and I was especially glad to do it since in the speech I made the connection between the military situation and the Jewish question, which was not very sympathetic.

Q Very well, I am going to pass on now I have made the point clear. Will you look at the next paragraph. It says SS Hauptsturmfuehrer, Dr. Ballensiefen, reports about experiences made during the execution of the anti-Jewish Measures in Hungary, so that the SS appeared to be represented here.

A Yes. Ballensiefen was a co-worker of Amt 7.

Q And now if you would look at page 13 of the file you will find a letter dated the 20th of April, a fortnight after the conference, whichis sent from the Foreign Office to the German Legations all over Europe, enclosing the minutes of the meeting and you will see, halfway through the first paragraph, and I quote: "On account of their secret nature the statements made by Counsellor of Legation, von Thadden and SS Hauptsturmfuehrer Ballensiefen of the Reich Security Main Office, have not been entered in the minutes." Was the only reason for the information of the representat-

of the RSHA being so secret the fact that it was dealing with figures?

A It was that he also gave the time during which the Jewish measures would take place in Hungary as the arrangements were completed - times that were in the future.

Q It wasn't because the RSHA was talking about the latest, most drastic executive measure that it was so secret, was it?

A No, definitely not, because as far as drastic measures were concerned in connection with the extermination of the Jews, Ballensiefen did not mention anything.

Q Well, I want to ask you about one further matter. I want you to look at page 31e and you will see that there is a note there signed by Hunsche, addressed to the Foreign Office, to be delivered to yourself. Can you tell me, does that refer to the document which goes before it - the document signed by Mueller?

A Yes.

Q Then if you will look at page 31, there is the other note which I already qyoted, which is signed by yourself. That means that you are forwarding that Letter on to Bucharest, is that correct?

A Yes.



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Q By that time, 1944, you were presumably fully acquainted with the Foreign Office's part in the Jewish Pogrom?

A Yes, as far as I could see in my position.

Q Well, now, would you turn over to page 38, I'm sorry, first of all to page 33. Did you know about some agreements which had taken place in 1941 called the Agreements of Taghina? Perhaps if you look at page 32, that might help you. Did you know about those?

A No, I didn't know of this.

Q You had never heard about them?

A This document is unknown to me.

Q The document may well be unknown to you because it is a document found in the Bucharest Legation. I am not suggesting that you would know the document. I am asking you whether you knew the substance of the document or about what they called the Agreements of Taghina?

DR. PELKMAN: I wish the witness could be given time to read the entire document.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: I can assure Dr. Pelkman that if he did read the entire document it would not affect the answer. If it did, of course time would be allowed the witness to read the document.

Q You knew, did you not, that Jews had been deported from Roumania?

A I knew that as a whole the Jews in Roumania were concentrated in Jewish Camps in Roumania.

Q Didn't you know that a very large number of Jews had been deported from Roumania? You needn't look at the file to answer that question.

A That might have been in the very beginning, but during the time that I was in office, that is 1943, no deportation of Roumanian Jews was being made. Just the opposite. I believe it was either in April or May 1943, the Roumanian Government asked that no further deportations be made of Roumanian Jews and that those Roumanian Jews in concentration camps in Germany should be transferred to Jewish camps in Roumania.

Q I am not suggesting that any deportations took place after you took over the Jewish business in the Foreign Office. All I am asking you is whether or not in 1944 you did know, you had become acquainted with the history of the

H0953-0064

Jewish problem in Roumania, and of the nature of what had taken place over the last four or five years?

A I had received a number of reports, especially numbers or figures, from Eichmann.

Q And, presumably, you had a number of files in the Foreign Office about these matters?

A Probably, yes.

Q Now will you look at page 39. Do you see that there is a file memorandum dated the 17th of October 1941 and it simply reads as follows: "According to information today from director General Lecca, 110,000 Jews are being evacuated from Bukovina and Bessarabia into two forests in the Bug River area. As far as he could learn, this action is based upon an order issued by Marshal Antonescu. The purpose of the action is the liquidation of the Jews." Are you telling us that as the Foreign Office official responsible for the Jewish Question you never learned of that operation whereby 110,000 Jews were liquidated in the forests of the Bug River?

A I did not know anything concerning this concrete measure.

Q Although in October 1943 you are sending on to Bucharest Himmler's orders for the further evacuation of all Jews from another 9 countries in Europe?

A I already said that this document, that is page 31, is in connection with the sending home of foreign Jews and it was mainly for the reason that no political mishaps would occur. This document has nothing whatsoever to do with the liquidation.

Q You still say you didn't know of that previous operation when 110,000 Jews were murdered?

A Aside from the fact that I do not understand the connection of the questions, yes.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: No further questions.

(A recess was taken)

BY M. MONNERAY:

Q When did you enter the Foreign Office?

A On the 1st of April 1937.

H0953-0065

Q In what part of the Foreign Office did you first work?

A In the Russian-Polish-Danzig Commission.

Q Until what time?

A Until 1940.

Q And in 1940?

A I went to the Personnel Section.

Q Until when?

A Until 2 February 1942.

Q And then?

A Then I became a soldier. After I was released from the hospital I came to the Neubacher in Athens.

Q What date?

A Either October or November 1942.

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Q And after that?

A Thereupon I came into the Inland Group 2.

Q On what date?

A The 8th of April 1943.

Q And what was the mission of this Group?

A The connection between the Foreign Ministry to Foreign Offices within the Reich.

Q For instance?

A For instance the Jewish question.

Q What offices?

A The Jewish question with the Office Eichmann.

Q That means Amt 4?

A Amt 4, especially Office Eichmann. Within the Group Inland 2 we had another adviser or referat who took care of the non-Jewish questions with Amt 4.

Q Which were the other German offices with which you have been in touch about the Jewish question?

A Only with Eichmann. With the exception of propaganda questions. With propaganda questions I also had to do with other offices. However, I left the propaganda matters very soon.

Q What were the references on the files in Amt 2?

A The files of Group Inland 2 had the marks A, B, C, D, and S, dependir on the various Groups.

Q What was the meaning of D-2?

A The file mark D-2 was the mark of the commission or Group Germany. This Group D-2 waslater on cancelled or liquidated and part of it taken by Inland Group 1 and 2, with the exception of a few items which came to Department of Policy Culture or Law.

Q So that Group Inland 2 received the files of D-2?

A Part of D-2 and part of D-3.

Q What was the jurisdiction of D-3?

A D-3 was mainly Jewish questions if I remember correctly.

Q Until when did D-3 exist?

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A Until March 1943.

Q And who took over this office?

A The duties of D-3 were divided - part to Inland 2, part to Policy 15.

Q When any anti-Jewish measures were carried out in the different occupied territories your representatives of the Foreign Office sent you a repor didn't they?

A That is the way it was supposed to be but quite often it was not because a large number of these anti-Jewish measures were carried out by men of Eichmann's staff, so that I did not find out until later on concerning these things.

Q Anyhow, it was the principle that all important measures were to be reported?

A They were supposed to have been, yes.

Q Your representatives in the foreign countries had the order to be in touch with the German police authorities and with the representatives of Eichmann, hadn't they?

A Yes, as far as foreign political questions were concerned.

Q You told us this morning that foreign countries concerned by the deportation of foreign Jews did not protest, so you thought there was no reason, from the German side, to be concerned about the deportation of Jews?

A I said that in connection with the returning action of Jews.

Q But your represantatives had the task of getting the representatives of Occupied Territories to agree to the deportation of Jews, hadn't they?

A That could not be said in such a way. Since 1943 it was hardly possible anywhere to make the measures more severe and to what extent the Foreign Ministry was connected with measures before 1943 I do not know; the sending of representatives of the Staff Eichmann to the various governments was done before 1943 with the exception of Hungary.

Q But you told us that during the meeting in April 1944 that it was necessary to obtain by the diplomatic channel more severe measures against the Jews, isn't that so?

A That was especially concerning Roumania because from Roumania continua transports went to Palestine, which was very oppressing to us due to the

H0953-0068



continual intervention of the Arabs.

Q In order to obtain those more severe measures your representatives in the foreign countries had to cooperate with the representatives of Eichmann, didn't they?

A In occupied territories?

Q Well, territories under the German control. Whether wholly occupied or not wholly occupied, it makes no difference at this point of view.

A Because in occupied territories the Foreign Ministry had hardly anything to do with it.

Q Do you contend that your representative in France, Abetz, had no action?

A I cannot say. I only know that Petain issued an order concerning the taking away of citizenship of French Jews. I do not know how far Abetz was connected with this. I did not receive any report concerning this.

Q Do you maintain that no liason existed between representatives of Eichmann and your representative?

A It was wholly different in the various countries.

Q Did you have special Jewish experts in the different diplomatic agencie

A No, but we asked only that on questions concerning propaganda that some specific person would take the propaganda measures.

Q And the purpose of this propaganda was to facilitate the carrying out of the Eichmann Action wasn't it?

A No, one can't say that absolutely. It was general anti-Jewish propagand and of course the necessity became evident through that propaganda that the Jew would have to be neutralized for the duration of the war.

Q When you presented and recommended that strong anti-Jewish propaganda during the meeting of April 1944, you did it in connection with the Eichmann Action, didn't you?

A I did it at the wish of Eichmann but we had a second reason for it. We of the Foreign Ministry were not satisfied with the large extent of the anti-Jewish propaganda. That is why we were interested through our membership to be able to control this propaganda. If the representatives of the Office Eichmann, Office Ballensiefen and the Office Rosenberg were informed of our activity we hoped that we would be able to participate in such a way. That is why it came to this anti-Jewish action at all upon the orders of the Reich Foreign Minister

Q Now I just want to read the summing up of your lecture:

"Counsellor von Thadden speaks about the Jewish-political situation in Europe and about the state of the anti-Jewish, executive measures. The speaker gave an outline why the Zionist Palestine solution or other similar solutions must be rejected and the deportation of the Jews to the Eastern territories, carrie out. Then he sketched the present state of anti-Jewish measures in all Europea countries.

The speaker then relates the counter-measures taken by world-Jewry agains the German anti-Jewish measures in Europe.

The lecture closed with the following request to the represnetatives of the missions:

1.) Suppression of all propaganda even camouflaged as anti-Jewish, liabl to slow down or handicap the German executive measures.



H0953-0069

2.) Preparation for the comprehension among all nations of executive measures against Jewry.

3.) Constant reports about the possibility of carrying out more severe measures against Jewry in the various countries by using diplomatic channels." You still maintain, probably, that your action of your missions, had not the purpose to help the execution of the Eichmann Action?

A I stated before and I state again that this was the wish of Eichmann and that we of the Foreign Ministry wanted to be connected with the anti-Jewish propaganda in this way.

Q So before you had no interventions in this matter, Had you?

A In many cases the orders went over our heads and against our wishes, against our wills.

Q I just want to show you Document 3688-PS Exhibit RF 1502. It is a note signed by Luetter, the 24th of September 1942, and enclosing the order of Ribbentrop to get in touch with the different governments in Slovakia, Bohemia, Roumania and in the Occupied Territories and in Denmark. in order to carry out the deportation of Jews.

DR. PELKMAN: Has the Document already been presented before the Tribunal?

M. MONNERAY: It is RF 1502 - I mentioned that before.

Q Do you still maintain that the different offices of the Foreign Office had no knowledge of the Jewish questions and that only two or three officials knew about it?

A I never claimed that. I only said that as far as the liquidation or murder was concerned.

Q Did you tell us yesterday that only two or three officials of the Foreign Office knew about the Eichmann Action?

A I don't believe so?

Q Didn't you say today that in order to get any information about the Eichmann Action you had to go to Eichmann himself?

A That is right.

Q And you still maintain that in the different offices of the Foreign Office there were no files like this one and no reports coming from the differe Missions who wrote about the measures carried out against the Jews?

A No. As I repeated previously, the Missions were supposed to report but



H0953-0070

very often it did not happen, so that very often I had to get my information directly from Eichmann.

Q Didn't you say this morning that different departments of the Foreign Office, such as D-2 and D-3 and afterwards D-3 and Inland II had files of jurisdiction about the Jewish Question?

A Concerning the Jewish question, yes.

Q Do you see that this note has been sent along to D-2 and D-3?

A Yes.

Q And to the State Secretary?

A Yes.



H0953-0071

Q You told us yesterday that the State Secretary did not get any reports from Eichmann.

A The State Secretary did not receive any information from Eichmann concerning certain protests from the Foreign Ministry.

Q But he knew about the general action of Eichmann, didn't he?

A Of course he was informed concerning the deportation.

Q What was the name of the State Secretary?

A Stehngart.

Q And what was the position of Luoter?

A Under-State Secretary and Chief of the Office Deutschland.

Q Had he to deal with the Jewish Question?

A He was Chief of the Group Deutschland in 1942 , before Group 2 was liquidated.

Q Who was Ballensiefen?

A Ballensiefen was a co-worker of Amt VII and it was his duty, as far as I know, to aid in scientific research of the Jewish Question.

Q Was he a member of the SD?

A I do not know. He was a member of the Reich Security Main Office.

Q Why did he give a lecture on the Eichmann Action in Hungary?

A Because he had just come from Hungary and was best informed since he had just come from Budapest where he was engaged in the building up of an anti-Jewish Scientific Research Institute.

Q Who was Dr. Six?

A Dr. Six, at that time when he spoke, was Chief of the Political Culture Group of the Foreign Ministry.

Q Had he to deal with Jewish questions?

A The propaganda problem was under him according to the order of the Minister.



H0953-0072

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Q You were under his authority, weren't you?

A No.

Q The Information Stelle 14 - was it under his authority?

A That was under Schleier, who was the representative or the deputy of Six.

Q Can you tell me where Dr. Six was before being the Chief of the Political Culture Group?

A He was a professor in a University in Berlin and, if I remember correctly, Chief of Amt VII of the RSHA.

Q Do you know whether he was a member of the SD?

A I can't answer that question.

Q Who was Counsellor of Legation Rademacher?

A Rademacher was on the staff of the Legation and my forerunner in the job of the Jewish Question.

Q He was in touch with Eichmann, wasn't he?

A Yes.

Q Where was he afterwards?

A A soldier.

Q Do you know what the functions of the experts for Aryanization were ?

A If you mean the experts that were sent to the foreign governments concerning this question I do not know for sure what you mean.

Q Those experts, according to your transcript of the meeting of April 1944, depended on the RSHA and were attached to the different German Missions abroad.

A Yes, there were such.

Q What was their mission?

A As far as we know it was their duty to aid the foreign governments in questions concerning Aryanization.

Q On what part of the RSHA were they depending?

A Amt IV, that is Staff Eichmann, named them.

Q So in each German Mission abroad, or in many missions, you had a representative of Eichmann inside of the German

H0953-0074

Mission, didn't you?

A Yes.

Q And you maintain no liaison existed between this official and your foreign affairs official inside of the Mission?

A In some cases there was such a liaison. In others I am sorry to say there was not.

Q And if this liaison existed then your representative made a report about the reports received from this expert, didn't he?

A Yes, if he considered these facts important for foreign policy,

Q Do you think that the killing of 110,000 Jews was considered as important from the point of view of foreign policy?

A I would suppose so.

Q Do you still maintain that no report has been made concerning the killing of 110,000 Roumanian Jews, which my British colleague presented to you just this morning?

A There is no indication or nothing in the report that would suggest that this report was presented to the Foreign Ministry and I cannot remember that I have ever seen any such report, even though it would have attracted my attention had I seen it.

Q If your representative in Bucharest had received this report do you think he would have communicated it to you in Berlin?

A Yes, I would suppose that.

Q Well, this report has been found in the files of the German Legation in Bucharest and this report says that a conference has been held at this point with Antonescu. Do you contend that the result of this conference has not at least been reported?

A That was just one of the main reasons for our protest. Very often we were not informed of any such discussions, especially concerning Aryanization. In addition to that, the Aryanization experts had the chance to send their reports directly to the RSHA offices, without them going to the Reich Foreign Office.

Q But these have been found in the Archives of the German Legation.

A If he had his office there, of course, but that doesn't mean that the Chief of the Mission had the files.

Q During this meeting in April 1944 all the different representatives of the different departments of the Foreign Office attended, didn't they?

A Yes, one representative of each mission participated. For instance the Aryanization expert was there from Sofia.

Q And also the representatives of the departments of the Foreign Office in Berlin attended this conference?

A Yes, four or five men.

Q For instance, the representation of the Informationsstelle?

A Yes.

Q And Inland II?

A That was I.

Q And the department from Commercial Policy?

A Just the one that was connected with the propaganda question of Commercial Politics.

Q And the Department for Cultural Policy?

A Yes, that was representative Schleier.

Q No, it was Dr. Six.

A That is true; Schleier was representative of Dr. Six and was also there.

Q And a representative of the Radio Department?

A Yes, Professor Mahr.

Q And the Press and Information Departments?



H0953-0075

H0953-0076

A I cannot say about those representatives.

Q And you still maintain that about the executive measures carried out by Eichmann, those measures exposed by the different speeches, you still maintain that only twoor three officials in the Foreign Office knew about this matter?

A I never claimed that.

Q So you admit that many people in the Foreign Office know about the deportation of Jews?

A As far as the transferring into Working Camps, yes.

Q And you maintain that nobody was talking about the final destiny of those people?

A Yes. We very often said that a final solution had to be found since the Palestine Solution was not acceptable - that some other solution would have to be found.

Q Didn't you ask your foreign representatives to send you Jewish material and Jewish newspapers?

A Yes, but that was necessary for my information.

Q But nobody knew about the actual execution and deportation of Jews?

A As I stated previously in direct opposition to these foreign reports was the statement of the Reichsfuehrer SS and of the Office Eichmann, the official German Office, which maintained that no such destruction or no such liquidation was taking place.

M. MONNERAY: I have no further questions.

(A recess was taken until 1415 hours.)

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(The hearing reconvened at 1400 hours, 12 June 1946)

VON THADDEN -- Resumed
REDIRECT EXAMINATION -- Continued.

BY DR. PELKMANN:

Q I have only a few questions arising from the cross examination and I shall put these questions chronologically.

You have been questioned on the anti-Jewish demonstrations of the 9th and 10th of November, 1938, and have been asked for the reason as to why you, as an SS leader, had no detailed information about this. You have told us already that you were an SS honorary leader. Will you please explain that more definitely, and tell us whether you had any duties to perform within the SS?

A I performed no duties of any kind within the SS. My party uniform, the uniform was given me when I received it solely for the purpose of accompanying some diplomats to one of the party rallies and to be able to wear a uniform for that occasion. My name was on file with the SS Central Bureau, as any honorary leader, but no other obligation for myself arose from this fact.

Q Will you state the reason why in your capacity as an SS leader, you could have no knowledge of the events of the 9th and 10th of November 1938?

A From the SS no instructions or anything else were issued to me.

Q The question was asked you whether you concerned yourself with the Jewish question at all until your employment as intelligence towards the Jewish question. You said that previously you didn't concern yourself with the Jewish question at all. Is that true?

A With the exception I have already mentioned of my trip to Palestine which was a trip for the personal purpose of study.

Q Would you say that you were especially qualified on the Jewish question or in the other fields that caused you to be given this position in the foreign office in 1943?

A No, the sole reason for my being given this position was that the Chief of the Inland Group No. 2knew me personally and wanted me to be one of his employees.

Q I want to ask you some questions concerning the matter and method of this Jewish question. Were there any departments in the foreign office that concerned themselves with the Jewish question and was there a special

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desk or division in the office that concerned itself with the Jewish question?

A For questions of propaganda there were several such departments in the different sections. Everything that did not include propaganda was my work.

Q But were you the person who was the authoritative one for all of these questions or did you have someone superior to you?

A There was a chief of departments superior to me and superior to him Secretary of State and superior to him the Minister.

Q By means of the questions asked during cross examination I should like to find out whether you were a decided Jewish opponent or an anti-Semitic person. You were asked how the Jews happened to be deported and placed under hard labor and according to my notes you answered:

"I realized that now the fight against the Jews had been begun every Jew, especially during war time, was a danger to the state, and had to be supervised or perhaps collected in camps."

Do you mean to say that this was, in your opinion, the method with which the Jews were to be fought, or do you mean to say that now that the Jews had been drawn into a defensive position, it would only be natural they would try to defend themselves, and would, thus, have to be guarded?

A I wanted the Jewish question to be settled in an evolutionary manner, but the form which the question has taken was only natural to lead to opposition by the Jews, and, therefore, the result of this opposition that the Jews would have to have now was that safety measures were unavoidable against these people who had now become enemies.

Q A document has been submitted to you that you had sent in connection with the internment of the Jews to all higher SS and police leaders abroad, and you have been asked if the conclusion drawn from this could be that every SS and police leader outside and within the Reich received this communication and you said "no." Will you please tellme why you have answered the question with "no" and tell me the difference between the superior SS and police leaders and SS leaders.

A The document was not sent by myself to the superior and police leaders but by theReich Main Security Office. That is right. The superior SS and police leaders were the spearhead of the individual police authorities in the different districts.

Q And what was the connection between those superior SS leaders and the SS leaders, did they have any connection at all?

A They had nothing to do whatsoever with the members of the General SS. They only had a connection with the security police, the regular uniformed police and the SD.

Q You were asked the question whether when you received this special commission in 1943, you occupied yourself with the files and documents which had come there in the meantime. Could you carry on such an examination? Were there any documents and did you have the time to occupy yourself with studying these documents from a previous time?

A The documents that were there were restricted in number because of the conditions they had been sent to an emergency depot.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Dr. Pelkmann, he has already testified to this before. If you have any additional questions I wish you would confine yourself along these lines, buthe has already testified to this before.

DR. PELKMANN: He only mentioned one reason and I asked him for a second reason, which he just mentioned, that he did not have sufficient time to study these documents.

WITNESS: My own department only included Jewish questions. I also had other work to do so on this matter I could only spend the time that was absolutely necessary for this.

BY DR. PELKMANN:

Q Tell us what other missions you had?



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CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Unless his other work is relevant I don't see the point in it. Is it to show he was not completely informed about his job because he did not have time to study? Whether it was connected with the Jewish question or not, we can let it go without showing why it was he was not informed.

DR. PELKMANN: But the Prosecution has tried to question the credibility of this witness and has said that he should have known about these things by having been able to study these documents.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: The witness has testified he was unable to devote all of his time to this work. Why can't we let the matter rest there unless it is brought out by further cross-examination of the witness.

BY DR. PELKMANN:

Q A document presented to you dated the 17th of October, 1941, concerning the execution of 110,000 Jews in the woods near Bug. When you were asked questions as to whether you had seen the document you answered in the negative, and you especially pointed out that the document itself does not show this document was ever sent to the foreign office, but you were then asked whether the fact in the communication that these Jews had been exterminated would not have had to be reported to the representatives of the foreign office in Bucharest. What would your answer be if there were presented to you the references and files numbers showing that, what would your answer be to the question if I tell you that a communication concerning this reference number was not found among the documents of the Bucharest delegation, and cannot be presented to you by the Prosecution. Are you of the opinion that at least a copy of such communication must be with the documents of the Bucharest delegation, if such a communi-

H0953-0081

cation had ever been sent?

A Yes, I am of the opinion that such a copy would have had to be there.

Q And would the fact that such a copy was not presented to you lead you to conclude that the foreign office was not informed of this at least in writing?

A That iswhat I would assume and that would also correspond to Eichmann's testimony concerning the executions and keeping them secret and so on.

Q You gave a declaration concerning the secrecy clause of the Krumhuble Tamung, April 1944, and you said that one of the reasons for keeping the execution of this action secret was that for military reasons it would have to be kept secret. That has not been answered quite clearly enough. Will you please say what connection there is between the carrying out of the Jewish action in the occupied territories and the military situation?

A In the countries -

COLONEL ORLOV: I don8t understand why those questions are put to the witness.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: It is a perfectly proper question. If military necessity required part of theprogram it would be a relevant question.

BY DR. PELKMANN:

Q I shall repeat the question. What connection is there between your statement concerning the carrying out of the Jewish question and the military situation in the occupied territories?

A The more unfavorable the military situation in these countries toward the East became the less inclined was the population to carry out our measures concerning the Jewish question.

Q You told us by mentioning the different countries what difficulties the carrying out of that program had in the occupied territories?

A Yes, I said that after Stalingrad, especially in Roumania, the action and the course taken, especially by Antonescu, were directly opposed to what they had been previously.

Q You were asked about a man who participated in a conference called Ballensiefen, and especially as to whether he represented the SS. You said, yes, he came before the RSHA, Amt. 7. Is this answer quite correct, does that mean he came to the SS?

H0953-0082

A The answer is not quite correct in so far as Von Thadden was the representative of Amt. 7, that is, of the RSHA, and not of the SS.

Q You were asked as to whether you knew anything about the Eichmann action, and you here said, you have testified previously thatif any one wanted to find out anything about the Eichmann action, he would have to ask Eichmann himself. Is that answer quite correct? Is it not rather that if any one wanted to know something about special points of complaint that it was then only Eichmann who could give the information.

A I believe I tried to clarify this point. We people knew about the trans-settlement of Jews to the Eastern District.

Q Then it was not a secret then only that Eichmann knew?

A That in itself wasnot a secret, but what happened to the Jews could only be found out for certain from Eichmann or from the Reichsfuehrer himself.

Q The Prosecutor has asked the question and you answered it that the foreign intelligence received in a restricted fashion the facts concerning the destruction of Jews, and that they were not believed by you because of official declarations by Eichmann and himmler, that such action had not taken place. Is that a fact that this was an official communication the sole reason why you believed it, or wasit because you had convinced yourselfby personal investigation and trips that these foreign intelligence reports could not be true?

Yes, I had no reason to doubt Himmler's official declaration, especially since I personally was able to convince myself that numerous reports received from abroad were false. For example, I should like to stress this point again, the burning of the Jews in Theresienstadt.

Q You were asked whether you knew anything about the declaration from London of December 1942? Do you know that such publications of the German enemy at that time were not published in the German press or rather made known in public?

A As far as I know such communications were not published in the German press.

Q If you had no possibility of learning of this declarations by means of the German press and radio, would you have received such information through your official channels by reason of your official position?

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A I received the information published on the Jewish questions in the foreign press and broadcast over the foreign radio.

Q Do you know if this declaration of London of December 1942 was mentioned in the Jewish special division of the foreign office?

A I don't remember ever having been shown this declaration.

Q Were the people mentioned by the Prosecution, Messrs. Schleier and Rademacher, your superiors?

A No.

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The foregoing is a true and correct transcrip of the testimony of EVERHARD VON THADDEN, taken on the 12 June 1946.

ALICE MEEHAN
Reporter

MABEL A LESSER
Reporter

ROSE W COOK
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

JOSEPH F TUBRIDY
Commissioner